

#### REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the 1<sup>st</sup> Action of 4 DEC. 2006 and requests reconsideration.

Responsive to Paragraph 1 of the Action, the specification is being corrected in the manner suggested, to refer consistently to elements 101 and 46 as "base" rather than "flange."

#### ART REJECTION-SECTION 102

SAITO shows a cooling fan with a motor type commonly called a "claw pole" motor. As shown in FIG. 4, the stator 6 has a bobbin 64, having a coil 63 that is wound therearound, which bobbin 64 is supported in an interior of a yoke 62 (cf. col. 5, lines 53 - 55). The yoke 62 is shown in detail in FIG. 6. It has a first (upper) yoke 621 and a second (lower) yoke 624. The first yoke 621 has a disk-shaped first base part 622 and four first claw parts 623 provided in the outer periphery of the first base part 622 and extending downwardly. The second yoke 624 is constructed accordingly, and has four second claw parts 626 extending upwardly and engaging with the four first claw parts 623, cf. col. 5, lines 34 - 45. The operation of the claw pole motor is described at col. 8, lines 10 - 22.

According to col. 5, lines 45 - 48, "the first yoke 621 and the second yoke 624 are arranged as to engage without having the first claw parts 623 and the second claw parts 626, which extend in opposite directions, come into contact", i.e., it is taught that there is a space between the first and second claw parts, as shown in FIG. 6. This space between the first and second claw parts is necessary, because a contact between the first and second claw parts would result in a magnetic short circuit, making the motor inoperative or severely detracting from its efficiency. Thus, it is clear that fluids may pass from outside through the space between the first and second claw parts to the inside, i.e. the bobbin 64 and the coil 63; see enclosed marked-up SAITO FIG. 4.

Therefore, SAITO does not describe a "pot-shaped part, forming a substantially fluidtight annular space enclosing said internal stator" as recited in present independent claim 1. Instead, it seems that the Office interprets the section of the yoke 62 in FIG. 4 as belonging to a closed structure. This interpretation by the Office, however, absolutely contradicts FIG. 6 of SAITO, and its accompanying description.

ART REJECTION - SECTION 103

Dependent claims 4, 5, 15, and 17 were rejected as obvious over SAITO, on grounds that no patentable weight is attributed to a "product-by-process limitation." However, welding bead 10, as recited in claim 5, is a structural element shown in FIG. 8 which exists prior to the welding operation. Therefore, it is not appropriate to dismiss the structure recited in claim 5 so casually. Further, as noted above, the Office has misinterpreted SAITO. SAITO does not contain the basic structural features of parent claim 1, much less the additional features recited in the dependent claims.

ART REJECTION - SECTION 103

Dependent claims 6-12, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected over a combination of SAITO with YOKOZAWA and BLUMENBERG, on the theory that YOKOZAWA shows a bearing holder and BLUMENBERG shows a retaining clip, allegedly the only two elements of claim 1 missing from SAITO. In fact, as discussed above, SAITO lacks other structural elements of claim 1.

YOKOZAWA (US 5,650,678) also fails to describe a "pot-shaped part, forming a substantially fluidtight annular space enclosing said internal stator" as recited in present independent claim 1.

BLUMENBERG (US 5,650,676) does not describe a pot-shaped part, forming a substantially fluidtight annular space and having a wall which extends in the manner of a canned motor through the air gap between the internal stator and the external rotor (emphasis added).

Accordingly, pending independent claim 1 is clearly novel and unobvious with respect to SAITO, to YOKOZAWA and to BLUMENBERG and should be considered allowable.

As all other pending claims are dependent on pending independent claim 1, these claims should also be considered allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

/Milton Oliver/

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Enc.: mark-up of SAITO FIG. 4 with fluid paths added as explanation